



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future

ABIGAIL C. HANSCOM
Director of Student Services

September 9, 2021

Dear Parents,

I am writing to welcome you back to school for the 2021-2022 school year. We have been hard at work this summer preparing for the new school year and are thrilled to have your children back with us in school. This summer's ESY program was the largest we have ever run, welcoming over 180 students and employing almost 100 staff. Thank you for supporting the school system's program and budget so that we were able to offer ESY in such an enhanced manner this summer. I also wanted to acknowledge the hard work of our Student Services staff last year and into the summer - their professionalism and dedication to our students was remarkable.

You are invited to join the Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). The mission of this organization is to work for the understanding of, respect, and support of children of all abilities in our community. The SEPAC holds informational and social events throughout the year and is a very helpful resource for parents. Check out this link for upcoming events: <https://www.westwoodsepac.org/events>. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other local families who have children receiving special education support services. I hope you will join the discussion; your input and participation is key to a successful collaboration in support of your child's education in the Westwood Public Schools. The SEPAC's first event will be a Welcome Back Popsicle Social on September 19 at the Sheehan School playground. See the SEPAC event site for details and to RSVP.

Please find linked here an electronic version of the [Parental Notice of Procedural Safeguards](#). This document is distributed each year to all parents of students with Individualized Education Programs in an ongoing effort to inform you of your rights on behalf of your children. It is also available in translation in 15 different languages at: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/prb/>. I encourage you to read this document and keep it accessible for future reference as it informs you of your due process rights in accordance with special education procedures. Additionally, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has sent a [welcome letter with a very helpful FAQ about COVID-related IEP services, meetings and your legal rights](#) as parents on behalf of your children. If you have any questions about the information in this document, need a copy mailed to you or need it translated into another language, please contact the Student Services Department at 781 326-7500, x1345, and we will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Abigail C. Hanscom
Director of Student Services

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